

THE
DISSEMINATOR
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THE DISSEMINATOR

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An electronic newsletter from the Nova Scotia Provincial Library

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Available on the WWW at:

<http://rs6000.nshpl.library.ns.ca/provlib/disseminator/>; -OR-

<http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/eppp-archive/disseminator-h/>

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Questions or comments about the activities in this issue should be directed to the contact people named.
Comments on or suggestions for THE DISSEMINATOR should be directed to Sue Dirani .

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FROM THE EDITOR

After last month's mammoth double issue, this month's is quite slim by comparison. But I suppose it's better to go with a slim issue than to make stuff up.

As most of you are already aware, we've made a big improvement to THE DISSEMINATOR. We've taken advantage of the technology available to us and have switched to an automated mailing list (listserv). The major reason for making this change is that, while continuing to provide the same level of service to the reader, the listserv also considerably streamlines the publication. It simplifies the process of keeping the mailing list current (as the number of DISSEMINATOR readers is constantly growing), makes its delivery more efficient and makes readership statistics available to us.

For those of you who haven't subscribed yet, send a message to:

listserv@nshpl.library.ns.ca

and type "**subscribe dissem-list firstname lastname**" in the body of the message (exactly as typed here but without the quotation marks). For example, if Harvey Keitel wanted to subscribe (and I'm certain that he does), he would type "subscribe dissem-list Harvey Keitel". It is very important that no other characters, letters, etc. be present in the body of the message. Leave the "subject" line blank. Once you have subscribed, you will receive a confirmation message outlining how to unsubscribe in the future if you should wish. -- Sue Dirani

MACPHERSON'S LOG

As Acting Coordinator of User Services, the past six weeks have been both exhausting and exhilarating. I have visited all nine Regional Chief and Acting Chief Librarians, worked with User Services and Administration staff at the Provincial Library, and had a crash course in Nova Scotia public library services from all of the library personnel I have met along the way.

While meeting with the Chief Librarians we discussed at length public library services and issues in the Province, compared notes on issues in Nova Scotia libraries versus issues in Ontario libraries, and shared information on policies and procedures. I believe that this sort of information sharing is invaluable and enables people to view their workplace from a different perspective when they learn how others perceive it.

During the summer I met and talked with all of the staff in User Services at the Provincial Library. I was interested to learn about the support services that this section provides to libraries across the province and about the various information sources that are available at the Provincial Library. The staff in User Services are also involved in many special projects that will ultimately become useful to staff in the regional libraries (i.e. the NSPL Web site, Directory of Nova Scotia Libraries, Summer Reading

Programme, etc.).

I look forward to hearing more about the big projects that are happening in Nova Scotia libraries - automation, the province-wide library card, the digitization projects, and increased Internet access. Each of these projects is singularly impressive and together they represent a massive undertaking. Public libraries everywhere are in the process of changing to meet the needs of the new information age and I think it is a very exciting time to be a public librarian. -- Natalie MacPherson

ACADIAN ODYSSEY

Information on Acadian history, culture, and genealogy will soon be available on the Internet thanks to Canada's Schoolnet Digital Collections Program. The project was carried out at Centre Acadien on the campus of Universite Sainte-Anne in Church Point, Nova Scotia. The digital collection, to be available on the World Wide Web, covers the span of Acadian history from the early seventeenth century to contemporary times. Particular emphasis was placed on the expulsion (1755-1762) and on the genealogy of early Acadian families. Major funding for the project came from Industry Canada. The Universite Sainte-Anne, the Nova Scotia Provincial Library and the Western Counties Regional Library contributed financially and with human resources.

An open house to introduce the project to the public, is planned for Monday, September 30 at 7:00 PM at the Centre Acadien, Universite Sainte-Anne.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Nova Scotia Community College Kingstec Campus Library is hosting an Open House on Wednesday, November 6 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm and from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. The Kingstec Campus Library supports the College curriculum and provides informational, educational and recreational resources for college students and for the community. At the Open House you will find Library Technician students demonstrating both traditional library skills and modern information technology, such as automated cataloguing, and online search strategies. The address is 236 Belcher Street, Kentville, Nova Scotia.

The "Nova Scotia Progress Report : Highlights of Departmental Activities, 1995-1996" is now available for purchase through the Nova Scotia Government Bookstore. The report is a summary of the activities of all provincial government departments during the 1995-96 fiscal year. Copies of the report are being catalogued and distributed to the regional libraries in Nova Scotia in the near future.

STAFFING NOTES

As reported in the previous issue, Andrea John, Coordinator of User Services, is currently on adoption leave. She has recently been granted additional leave until the end of December. Unfortunately for the Provincial Library, Natalie MacPherson is not able to remain with us as the acting Coordinator of User

Services and she will be returning to her full-time position at the Stratford Public Library in Ontario. Our loss is Stratford Public Library's gain!

Jane Lockwood returned from maternity leave on September 3 and we're all very glad to have her back at work. We are also welcoming Vicki Prosser who is replacing Mary Fellows at the reception desk while Mary is on maternity leave. Welcome aboard!

LINKed

This month the theme is Canadian business. If you know of any interesting sites to include or if you would like to suggest a theme for future columns, e-mail me (sdirani@nshpl.library.ns.ca).

Canadian Company Capabilities

http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/sc_mrkti/ccc/cc_homepage.html

- the Web version of the BOSS directories, this database contains information on all types of Canadian companies and is searchable by company name, type of business (keyword), and geographic location.

Canada/Nova Scotia Business Service Centre

http://reliant.ic.gc.ca/en_glish/ns/ns.html

- lots of info here for people currently in business or starting a business, including downloadable pamphlets such as "Business Startup" and "Taxation".

Starting a small business in Nova Scotia

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/ecor/ced/startall.htm>

- Nova Scotia Economic Renewal Agency houses this full-text site which includes information on acquiring a franchise, preparing a business plan, and setting up a bookkeeping system among many other topics.

Trade Data Online

http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/sc_mrkti/tdst/engdoc/tr_homep.html

- Industry Canada's trade information site is great for finding trade and import/export statistics as well as contact information for businesses wishing to trade with specific countries.

The Financial Post

<http://www.canoe.ca/FP/home.html>

- online version of Canada's business newspaper. Includes the full-text of some daily stories and a link to statistical information about the top 50 Canadian companies (the #1 spot, by revenue, is held by GM Canada but the #1 net income spot is held by Seagram's).

WHERE WE FOUND IT

More reference questions received at the NS Provincial Library which were answered using the Internet.

Q. Information about PLURA, a religious coalition which funds literacy groups especially their address and phone number.

A. The address for a local PLURA group was found through the Halifax Regional Library's Adult Education and Clubs and Organizations Search Page. The URL is <http://www.cfn.cs.da.al.ca/Libraries/HCRL/search.html>

Q. Information on uterine balloon therapy, a new technique used in place of a hysterectomy.

A. The keywords "uterine balloon therapy" were entered into the Excite search engine and resulted in a link to the home page of the Bay Area Fertility Medical Group (http://www.ihr.com/bafertil/index_x.html). From the main page there was a link called "Endometrial Ablation - Uterine Balloon Therapy" which yielded a factual information sheet on the procedure. -- Carol Morris

PROFESSIONAL READING

In this month's column, we are featuring two of the latest additions to our growing professional monograph collection. Items found in this column can be obtained from the Provincial Library's Professional Collection through regular ILL channels.

1) Foot, David K. - Boom, Bust & Echo: how to profit from the coming demographic shift. Toronto: MacFarlane Walter & Ross, 1996. (Call #: Prof. 303 .49 Foo)

- This book by David Foot, an economist and demographer at the University of Toronto, examines the critical role that demographics play in the nation's economy and social life and how they affect every one of us as individuals. The author states that demographics, the study of human populations, is the most powerful yet most underutilised tool we have to understand the past and to foretell the future. Foot states that demographics explain two-thirds of everything and that demographics can tell us such things as which products will be in demand in five years, what school enrollments will be, which drugs will be in fashion in ten years and what sorts of crime will be on the increase.

2) McClure, Charles R. - The Project GAIN Report: connecting rural public libraries to the Internet. Manlius, NY: Information Management Consultant Services, 1994. (Call #: Prof. 021 .65 Pro)

- This document provides an overview of Project GAIN, a pilot project to extend Internet access and training to five rural New York State public libraries and one first nation's school. Via the local library, the six rural libraries were linked to a regional network called NYSERNET - the New York State Education and Research Network, which in turn, connected them to the Internet. This is a summary of key findings and recommendations which are intended to help the United States to accomplish President

Clinton's policy goal as outlined in his January 25, 1994 State of the Union Address for connecting all libraries to the National Information Infrastructure (NII) . --Frank Oram

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